
 r/movies • 10 yr. ago
Cinemaphreak 

Was watching HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON 2 last night and about halfway through realized that Djimon Hounsou was the voice of the villain, Drago Bludvist who is drawn to look like Bob Marley. Suddenly my fun movie was "accidentally" racist. Did no one at Dreamworks not realize how bad of a call this was?

Discussion

Just like in the first one, I was playing a game of "who's voice is that" and knowing that the villain (which the first film didn't really have one of) was going to be a big character, I wondered who they would get. At first he has so few lines that I'm not sure I would suss it out, but then I realized that the way the character is drawn (dark skin, thick dreadlocks) I immediately began to mentally filter black actors only and it took just one more line to zero in on Hounsou, who became meme & gif worthy last summer by responding to Peter Quill's "Star Lord" with "Who??!"



Luckily, with the help of wine I was able to go back to enjoying the movie and it was only during the end credits when Djimon Hounsou was confirmed as Drago that the realization of just how inadvertently (one hopes) racist **Dragon 2** was once you began to think about it. Clearly, Dean DeBois made a conscious decision with the first film not to have non-white looking Vikings in his film. Ignoring the fact that his film has effing dragons in it, this was in keeping with the fact that Vikings are, yes, white folk.

Yet, when it came to creating the villain for the sequel he goes WAY beyond simply giving him dark hair, but vaguely African features and very UN-vaguely African hair. They then cast Hounsou, who is from Benin (which most people, myself included, didn't even know is a tiny, African country on the east coast). There's also the usual, stereotypical white = good, black = bad color usage with not just his clothes but with the depictions of the giant mega dragons which are mostly white vs mostly black.

Oh, yeah, this also leads directly to ultimate race-baiting image of a big black villain menacing a small, blonde white woman. No, I'm not kidding.

[Here's is Drago Bludvist, you decide:](#)

[In searching for that image, I stumbled across a Huffpo article about this very thing: "Why Is the Villain in Dragon 2 the Only Non-White Character?"](#)

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 aintnufincleverhere • 10y ago



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**Finrod_the_awesome** • 10y ago

And all of the Vikings of Berk were white. Fucking vikings and their white privilege.

3

Reply

Tight_Exit_4620 • 2y ago

They are Scandinavian, of course they are.

1

Reply

**Denisdemnis** • 5mo ago

lmao hes being sarcastic

1

Reply

**LegitlAmjack** • 10y ago

How is that racist? The fact that you look so far into it says a lot about you.

11

Reply

**Cinemaphreak** OP • 10y ago

And that you don't, says a lot about yourself.

Be careful when you start holding up mirrors to other people, you might just catch your own reflection and it might not be what you expect.

What it says about me is that I'm aware that Hollywood has a pretty terrible past with making the villain a black guy and when you do so, it better be damn relevant to the story. In this case, **Dragon 2** fails miserably.

-4

Reply

**[deleted]** • 10y ago

So what you're saying is that anyone who doesn't actively seek out and find racism in *every little fucking* thing are the ones with the problem.

Just wow.

3

Reply

**LegitlAmjack** • 10y ago

Did you get offended during the opening scene in Casino Royale? If you want to be offended, there are a lot more places you can look to than How to Train Your Dragon 2

4

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Paradox1989 • 10y ago



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**[deleted]** • 10y ago

"muh institutionalized xyz"

villain can't be black. Nonwhite characters can only be a Mary Sue.

5

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1 more reply

**Particular-Ad-4854** • 3y ago

Thank you. I thought I was the only one who noticed. Also you are wasting your time trying to talk reason to these willingly ignorant troglodytes, the movie was racist propaganda at its finest.

6

Reply

**YandereFlame** • 2y ago

what. vikings are white. what does it matter, it literally circulated nothing around race. 🙄

1

Reply

**ContributionCrazy552** • 1y ago

you're ignorant. the white, good black bad trope is long-standing and immediately me and my gf were like why did they make the villain drago Black, with dreadlocks, darker skin and an african accent

3

Reply

I_like_broccli • 2y ago

Its fucking vikings

1

Reply

**YandereFlame** • 2y ago

Vikings are white 🙄🙄🙄🙄

1

Reply

Tight_Exit_4620 • 2y ago

Precisely.

1

Reply

**Spare_Clue3503** • 2y ago

He's not even black you weirdo! People who look for this stuff are actually the most racist of all.

2

Reply

He has dreadlocks and darker looking skin and is the only black cast member aside from Samuel L. Jackson who has a bit part.

1 Reply

 **bones-rodriguez** · 6mo ago

I realize I'm writing this 8 years later, but I have kids now. The first time I saw this movie I was like "Did they do this ON PURPOSE?" It is really, really too weird to be an accident. Not just the characters look, but the effing CASTING?

People who don't see it are really not looking.

I enjoyed the first movie a lot, but I have no desire to show my kids the second movie.

Considering the message of the first, the second makes no damn sense.

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 **Denisdemnis** · 5mo ago

I think you should look at it in the eyes of its setting and historical context, not a black and white mix of victimhood.

1 Reply

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After all these years, the Prometheus abortion machine still lives rent free in my head. Anybody else have specific scenes they think about from time to time?

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Jonathan Lynn wrote and directed a perfect movie. That movie is Clue.

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youtu

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Fright Night (1985) is such an incredible vampire movie. And half the reason is cause of how memorable the character of Peter Vincent is. Also the vampire make up is unnervingly terrifying!

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F. Murray Abraham will play the villain Grimmel in 'How to Train Your Dragon 3'

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SPOILER
i might be an idiot but something in the La La Land ending finally clicked for me

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hollywoo...

r/ARK

I've just re watched how to train your dragon 2 again and all I could think during this fight was how much keratin these would drop

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32 upvotes · 7 comments

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There's something so uniquely good, funny, bad, weird and impressive about Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves that I can't quite put my finger on.

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I met "Vern" from the Ernest movies as a kid. But I never understood how since he was never shown on screen. Could anyone explain this?

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I watched "Iceman" (1984), and John Lone's performance as a Stone Age man displaced in time absolutely blew me away

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